

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated January 24, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25 and 26 are rejected by the Examiner. Claims 5 and 16 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25 and 26 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the inventions. Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,266,116 to Ohta et al. (hereinafter "Ohta") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,653,859 to Masaki (hereinafter "Masaki").

The rejection of claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25 and 26 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 5 and 16 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "wherein the light transmittance and the color-shift depends on $d \Delta n$." None of the cited references including Ohta and Masaki, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

In the passage cited by the Examiner, the value $d \Delta n$ is set to be half of the approximately average wavelength of the characteristic backlight. This then allows the color tone of the transmitted light of the liquid crystal layer to become white. In the present invention, "the light transmittance and the color-shift depends on $d \Delta n$ " as opposed to $d \Delta n$ being set based upon the average wavelength of the characteristic backlight in Ohta. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25 and 26 are allowable over the cited references.

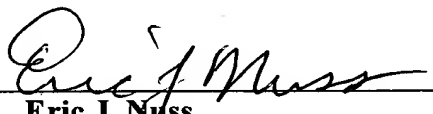
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 24, 2006

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